

like a phalanx to destroy Japanese naval operations. Admiral Nimitz defiantly proclaimed:

It was the great submarine force that I looked to carry the load until our great industrial activity could produce the weapons we so sorely needed to carry the war to the enemy. It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril.

By the end of World War II, American submariners had decimated the Japanese fleet. Over 1,000 Japanese ships were destroyed in the Pacific theater alone. However, destruction was not the only role submariners would play during the war. Ships assigned to the submarine lifeguard league rescued hundreds of downed Navy and Army Air Corps flyers from the sea. In all, over 500 flyers owed their rescue to the Navy's submariners, prompting one sailor to proclaim, " * * they never failed us in our days of great peril, and we as a nation are forever grateful."

As World War II drew to a close, and the cold war dawned, the role of the submarines and their crews became only more invaluable. With the introduction of the nuclear powered fleet, submariners would be pushed to even greater extremes as men and ships were sent on extended missions well beyond what was imaginable only 10 years prior.

Nuclear subs carried the most lethal deterrent known to mankind—nuclear missiles. With their ability to launch from indeterminable locations without warning, the United States proved its preeminence as a naval power and maintained peace and relative stability around the world.

Triumph was not without tragedy and early nuclear submariners paid the ultimate price. In 1963, the submarine *Thresher* sank with nearly 130 crewmen aboard. Again in 1968 the *Scorpion* went down with 99 crewmen aboard. These tragic losses, however proved to open new doors for American submariners. The deep submergence rescue vehicle program was born out of tragedy and now sailors of all nations can be quickly rescued in the event of tragedy. The tragic losses are sad but gallant extensions of the traditions of duty, professional competence, and self-sacrifice which has always been the hallmark of submariners.

As we enter a new millennia and an era of changing world order, we must be ever mindful of the sacrifices made by our men and women who silently served as submariners. Throughout our history, the role of submariners and their crews have time and time again been put of the test and performed flawlessly. Each day we remember troops, airmen, and sailors—men and women alike—who paid the ultimate price for our continuing freedom. As we look back, let us not forget our submariners, active crews and veterans alike. Let us not forget the sacrifices paid by our submariners. In tribute to their valor, we offer our admiration, respect, and praise.

EARTH DAY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 23, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EARTH DAY 1997: THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

On April 22 we celebrated the 27th Earth Day. We can take great pride in the advances that have been made in environmental protection. We have succeeded in reducing the levels of lead and other dangerous pollutants from the air. Lakes and rivers, once so contaminated they could catch on fire, now support large fish populations. Forests are rebounding. Endangered species, like the eagle, have been saved from extinction and are now thriving.

Hoosiers strongly support cleaning up our air, water, and land, and want to leave the environment safe and clean for the next generation. They overwhelmingly support sensible, targeted and moderate laws necessary to keep the environment clean. They also support the view that states and localities have a greater role to play in the environment, and that environmental laws should be based on sound science and a careful balancing of costs, benefits and risks. I agree with their common sense beliefs.

As we celebrate the 27th Earth Day, it is helpful to see how our approach to environmental protection has changed over the last two decades, and how we can best meet the environmental challenges of the 21st Century.

THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

Much debate has focused in recent years on the various roles that federal, state and local governments should play in environmental and other areas of regulation. There has been a strong push to devolve more responsibilities to the state and local level, where officials are closer to problems and can respond in a more flexible, cost-effective way. I support that general trend.

The federal government, however, is still the dominant player in the environmental field. There are two primary reasons for this arrangement. First, many environmental problems are national in scope. Air pollution, for example, generated in Louisville or Cincinnati can affect air quality in southern Indiana. Likewise, an oil spill in Pittsburgh will affect water quality throughout the Ohio River system. States, acting alone, cannot effectively respond to environmental problems which cross state boundaries.

Second, the federal government has the resources and expertise to determine what levels of pollution are safe for public health. The federal government first set national standards for air quality in the 1960s and has since adopted similar standards for water quality, hazardous waste disposal and the like. This regulation has come at a cost to industry and local communities—and often the federal government has failed to provide adequate financial resources to help state and local governments meet federal standards—but, in general, federal leadership has resulted in dramatic benefits for public health and overall environmental quality.

REGULATORY APPROACH

The federal approach to environmental regulation has changed over the last two decades. The first approach was characterized by "command and control." The government set the rules and expected state and local governments as well as industry to obey them. Under this approach, a factory would be required to install a specific pollution control device.

"Command and control" has worked, at some cost, in terms of controlling large point sources of pollution, such as industrial facilities, but has been less successful in reducing pollution created by numerous smaller sources. For example, storm runoff can wash pollutants from farms, highways and city streets into the water system. Such dif-

fuse pollution sources are difficult to control.

The federal government is now taking a more cooperative approach in addressing environmental problems. Today, the federal government takes the lead in setting standards for the country, and assumes a substantial share of the resources, but works closely with the states and the regulated community to implement the laws and find cost-effective solutions which aim to strike a balance between environmental protection and economic growth. Many farmers, for example, have switched to low-till or even no-till farming practices. Such methods not only reduce soil erosion and help prevent water contamination, but also improve overall efficiency of the farm operation.

THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Environmental problems can be global. Scientists concluded that use of CFCs (a group of chemicals commonly used in aerosol spray cans and automobile air conditioners) was depleting the ozone layer. Ozone in the upper levels of the atmosphere acts as a shield against harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. In response, the U.S. joined other countries in approving a phaseout of CFCs, and U.S. companies are now leading the way in developing safer substitutes.

The U.S. is working with other countries on a host of international environmental problems, such as maintaining fish and other wildlife in our oceans and improving environmental quality along our borders with Mexico and Canada. The U.S. can and should participate in these efforts because it is in our national interest to do so. If we take a leading role, we can insist that other countries abide by similar environmental standards.

CONCLUSION

When I was first elected to Congress in 1964, there was little or no discussion about the environment. That has, of course, changed. Environmental protection now ranks as one of the most important concerns of the American public, and progress has certainly been made: substantial reductions in most air and water pollution; international efforts to phase out CFCs; reductions in children's blood lead levels; improved industrial management practices to reduce emissions; and, more broadly, a strengthened stewardship ethic to minimize environmental damage.

The challenge for the next century is building upon our successes in more flexible, cost-effective ways. New approaches will entail using innovative technologies, increasing community participation, placing more emphasis on prevention, streamlining government regulations, providing economic incentives to business and industry, and urging cooperation at all levels. As long as the population, economy, and per capita income grow the pressure on the environment will grow. Our challenge is finding the right balance between environmental protection and economic growth.

JEROME WARNER, NEBRASKA'S PREEMINENT CITIZEN LEGISLATOR

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this week Nebraskans bade farewell to an extraordinary man. State Senator Jerome Warner, a family

man, a farmer, a fine and honorable gentleman, and a preeminent citizen legislator, died at the age of 69, after 35 years of service to our State in its unicameral legislature.

The extraordinary qualities and abilities of the gentleman from Waverly, NE, have long been recognized across our State. In recent weeks and months Nebraskans have praised him with such words as "integrity, courage, dignity, honest, genuine, outstanding legislator, a force of nature, friendly, All-American, trustworthy, unpretentious, fair, builder, modest, consummately ethical, revered, bred for public service, the Dean, captain of the ship, and progressive."

Jerry was only 9 years old when his father was elected speaker of the first session of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, and the senior Warner served nearly 40 years as a Nebraska legislator, including 23 years as speaker. In his 35 years as a State senator, Jerry Warner served as speaker, too, three times, as chairman of practically all of the important committees, including the appropriations, revenue and education committees, and in many other formal and informal leadership roles.

In his early years in the legislature, Jerry worked successfully to provide State aid so that schools could be less dependent on property taxes. Thirty years later, he continued that effort to provide even more State aid for education. Jerry was chairman of the appropriations committee for 13 years. During the farm crisis in the 1980's, when the revenues from sales and income taxes fell, Jerry found ways to cut State spending. Throughout his service on the appropriations committee, when a shortfall loomed, Jerry produced a plan to pull the State through its fiscal difficulties.

In addition, throughout his life, Jerry farmed on the same family farm where he was born in 1927, and he bred registered Hereford cattle. He finally leased out the farm land 3 years ago and sold the last of his cattle last month.

Some Nebraskans have wondered why Jerry never ran for higher office. I think I know. For him there was no higher office than serving one's fellow citizens in our unicameral legislature—as a "citizen legislator."

I served with Jerry Warner for only 4 years, but that was a wonderful and significant time for me. When he first moved to the appropriations committee and became its chairman in 1977, I was new to the vice chairman role. Together, as we worked alone, night after night, we poured over the budget until midnight hours. We made some big changes in direction. But more importantly, during these nights I learned about the depth of this man's commitment to Nebraska's welfare and about the unrivaled depth of his knowledge of the State. Thereafter, I always knew my first and best source of information—practical and historical—about Nebraska State government was Jerry Warner. Up close I learned about the intellect and rationality behind that very special twinkle in Jerry's eye.

I am so very appreciative that I had the privilege of knowing him and working with him, of his good counsel, and of all that he did to make Nebraska a much better place to live. Jerry Warner made a big, big difference for the better here on earth. What better legacy can one leave?

Jerome Warner of Waverly, NE, a giant in his accomplishments, has walked modestly among us, but none before him or probably

none after him will ever match his legislative achievements in Nebraska.

[From the Lincoln (NE) Journal Star, Apr. 22, 1997]

FROM LIFE TO LEGACY: WARNER'S LONG SEASON OF SELFLESS SERVICE

Toward the end, people who knew him well were at special pains to pay tribute to Jerome Warner. The energy to speak in admiration and in gratitude bubbled up at about the same rate that Warner's own energies wore down.

It is a measure of this man's quiet, simple greatness that even those who did not know him well could know how fine, how decent a man he was.

Like a cold wind, the thought rushes in upon us now that we were somehow vastly unprepared for his death Sunday.

Our search for warmth and for solace leads us to simple truths that passed from the seat of state government to the farthest corners of this state over a 35-year career. Jerome Warner is a man of his word. Jerome Warner defines what it means to be a public servant. Jerome Warner is the kind of leader who cares more about what he gets done than how he describes it.

The Revenue Committee puts its sense of urgency about failing health into action as calendars turned to April 1997. Sens. David Landis of Lincoln and George Coordsen of Hebron were among those to take some time to praise Warner for his leadership, for his selflessness, for his ability to see out ahead to new problems and new solutions. Never one for spectacle or smooth speeches, the chairman took it all in from behind those glasses that gave his eyes such owl-like hugeness and suggested the committee adjourn.

As applause rolled across the room, he declared, "I guess we're done."

Now at least in the most immediate sense, we citizens of Nebraska are done with the life of Jerome Warner. Thankfully, his legacy is just beginning.

As was so typical of him, he gave almost all of his remaining energy to the legislative task. He did not check into Tabitha's hospice program in Lincoln until a few days before his death.

The tributes that began back when cancer had so clearly gained the upper hand continue in a torrent. But the words now are words we pass among ourselves. We comfort each other, we try to reassure each other, and we look anxiously for others half so willing, half so able to help us find our way.

The Warner legislative legacy includes establishing state aid to education. It includes an end to pork-barrel politics in use of highway funds and stout defense of using highway money for highway purposes. It includes hard and unfinished work in the 1997 session in trying to salvage quality education from property tax relief.

In earlier sessions of his life, Warner spent his days in the Legislature and his nights on the tractor. It is a fitting way, in this last session, to remember a citizen-senator who did so much to bring together the interests of rural Nebraska and the interests of all of Nebraska. It is a fitting, sunset vision of ambitions that were so characteristically focused first on his state, rather than on himself.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, April 22, 1997]

SENATOR WARNER DIGNIFIED OFFICE

Jerome Warner died too young. At age 69, his mind was still sharp. His judgment was still good. He still displayed a desire to serve his fellow Nebraskans.

Until he checked himself into a nursing home two weeks ago, in pain and frail from

his battle with cancer, he had been in the thick of the legislative debate over property-tax lids and projected treasury surpluses. Members of the Legislature and people outside the Legislature were still looking to Warner for guidance on how to manage the tangle of tax issues.

It was logical that they were turning to the Waverly senator. Nebraska has benefited substantially from the wisdom and balance he displayed during his 34 years as a state senator. His passing leaves a void in state government.

Warner served in the Legislature longer than any other person. He held all the top leadership positions and three of the most powerful committee chairmanships—Appropriations, Revenue and Education.

Many of his achievements came in the area of providing essential services with a fair system of taxation. He was the father of Nebraska's roads classification system, which took politics out of highway planning. He planned the Postsecondary Education Coordinating Commission to eliminate unnecessary duplication in higher education. He was instrumental in bringing Kearney State College into the University of Nebraska system.

Warner got Nebraska's variable gasoline tax through the Legislature. He wasn't the kind of politician who would promise good roads and leave the financing to someone else. He knew that the highway program needed more money. He came up with what he thought was the fairest system of obtaining more.

Warner had personal qualities that made him effective as a politician and likable as a human being. His integrity was unimpeachable. He was always pleasant and polite to those around him, whether they were high-powered officials or the college students who work as legislative pages. He respected ordinary people. He was a "bottomless pit of patience," a former legislative colleague once said.

Some politicians gain dignity when they are elected to public office. With Jerry Warner, it was the other way around. The way he conducted his 34-year career as a state senator enhanced the honor and dignity of the office. Few Nebraskans ever came closer to being the model public official.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORTAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, PORTAGE, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Portage School District in southwest Michigan. Much has changed since the school doors opened in 1922, but throughout the years the Portage schools have consistently succeeded in providing a high quality education and outstanding services for students.

Formed in 1922 as the Portage Agricultural School District, the district then had five teachers. Today, 550 professionals educate nearly 9,000 students who fill 8 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools. The school district boasts student achievement scores that are 15 percent to 20 percent higher than State averages with 83 percent of their students going on to higher education.

The strength and excellence of the school district's curriculum and programs prepares